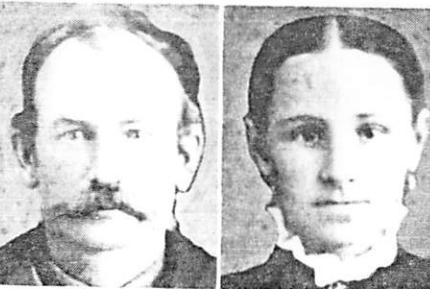


JOHN OSBORN AND MARY JANE BETHERS OAKS

John O. Oaks was born in American Fork Utah, on May 18, 1856, son of Hyrum and Sarah Ann Woods Oaks. While very young, his parents moved to Heber Valley, where he was one of the first white babies



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John Oaks
Ace Bethers*



to survive the winter, living in a covered wagon. Later the family moved to a farm at the mouth of Daniels Canyon, where he spent his early years hunting wild animals with his father and having many Indian experiences.

He married Mary Jane Bethers, oldest child of William S. and Phebe H. McMillan Bethers, on August 5, 1884, in Daniel, and later in the Salt Lake Temple. Mary Jane was born August 27, 1867, at Wanship, Summit County, Utah. While very young her parents moved to Heber, living in a one-room, dirt-roofed log house. When she was six years old her father took up a homestead along Daniel Creek and they moved their house from Heber in 1874 to the farm and lived there many years. She was the only help her parents had for years, assisting in clearing the land and cultivating the crops, so she learned to do hard work.

As a girl, she was very apt with a needle and thread and was a fine seamstress. Later in life she made beautiful burial shoes for the dead many years. She and her mother used to walk to Heber, carrying their butter and eggs to trade for groceries and cloth, which they carried home. On one of these trips she sewed on a shirt for one of her brothers.

She also was a very excellent cook. When one thinks of welfare they can very easily think of Mary Jane, for she was always prepared for the years ahead with clothing, bedding and food. Her cellar was always filled with a variety of good things to eat and she was always ready to help someone or to send food to anyone in need. The vegetable gardens she cared for were pictures to behold.

John and Mary Jane lived in Vernal several years of their early married life, where he worked with his father and brothers in a saw and shingle mill. Later they returned to Daniels. He worked with his father and father-in-law, William Bethers, surveying and helping build the Strawberry ditch to bring irrigation water to the Daniel farms. He also worked in the timber a great deal, cutting and hauling logs down the canyon. He always owned a good team of horses, taking great pride in having them well groomed and in good shape. He did much team work.

Both he and his wife worked in the Church, he as a counselor in Sunday School and in the YMMIA, and she as a counselor in the YWMIA, a teacher in Sunday School, Primary and Relief Society. She held a perfect record of 16 years of visiting teaching, walking several miles in visiting families in her district. John also drove groups of students to school in Heber by team and wagon or sleigh, according to weather.

After three years of illness, John died at his home in Daniel, November 25, 1924, and Mary Jane passed away November 6, 1950, at Daniel, after almost three years of illness.

They were the parents of 10 children: Phebe Ann, Mary Jane, Sarah Elizabeth, Hyrum, John Henry, William Wallace, Warren, Ralph, Inez and Taylor Martin.

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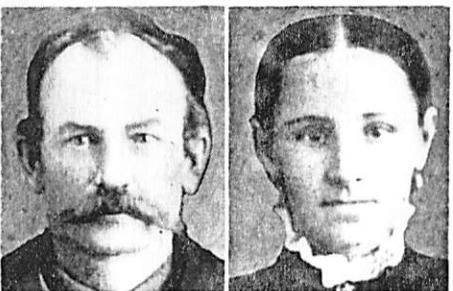
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